

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 1-12 are in the application. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Dopper et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0041873*. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 8 to clarify that the device loads the closure plug into the patient connector, and that the closure plug is then transferred to one end of the patient connector, whose actuator is thus moved from a used position to a starting position. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification on page 2, second paragraph, and in FIGS. 2A and 2B.

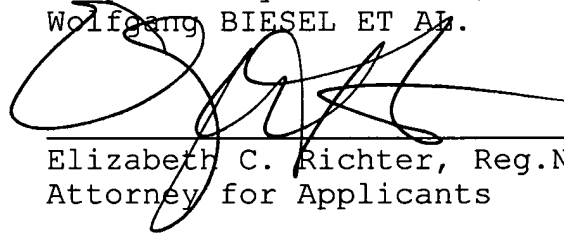
Dopper relates to patient connectors for peritoneal dialysis which are connected with the patient's abdominal connector for liquid exchange. After the peritoneal dialysis is finished, a closure plug is put into the abdominal connector in order to

avoid a manual closing of the same, which has the inherent danger of peritonitis. *Dopper* relates to the one-time loading of a closure plug into an abdominal connector. In the present invention, the device loads a new closure plug into a patient connector, whose closure plug has already been used. This allows the patient connector to be used again. The patient connector's actuator is moved by the reloading device from a used position back into a starting position, where it can then be used to transfer the new closure plug into an abdominal connector.

Dopper does not show a patient connector with an actuator, which receives a closure plug from a separate housing such that the actuator is re-loaded and can be used again. *Dopper* only shows the transfer of a closure plug from the patient connector to the abdominal tube. Abdominal tube 14 of *Dopper* is not a patient connector having a re-loadable actuator.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-12 are patentable over *Dopper*. Early allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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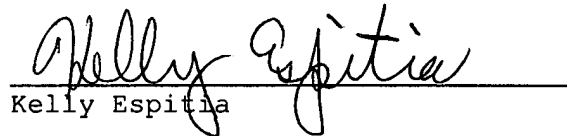


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